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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/762,580	02/09/2001	Gerard Hotier	PET1913	5248

23599 7590 05/19/2004

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EXAMINER

CINTINS, IVARS C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1724

DATE MAILED: 05/19/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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EXAMINER

ART UNIT	PAPER
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20040516

DATE MAILED:

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner for Patents

Ivars C. Cintins
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 1724

Art Unit: 1724

The communication filed on February 17, 2004 is not deemed to be fully responsive to the Office Action dated November 19, 2003 because this communication fails to comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.111(b). 37 CFR 1.111(b) states:

In order to be entitled to reconsideration or further examination, the applicant or patent owner must reply to the Office action. The reply by the applicant or patent owner must be reduced to a writing which distinctly and specifically points out the supposed errors in the examiner's action and must reply to every ground of objection and rejection in the prior Office action. The reply must present arguments pointing out the specific distinctions believed to render the claims, including any newly presented claims, patentable over any applied references. If the reply is with respect to an application, a request may be made that objections or requirements as to form not necessary to further consideration of the claims be held in abeyance until allowable subject matter is indicated. The applicant's or patent owner's reply must appear throughout to be a *bona fide* attempt to advance the application or the reexamination proceeding to final action. A general allegation that the claims define a patentable invention without specifically pointing out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the references does not comply with the requirements of this section.

The Office Action dated November 19, 2003 contains a rejection of claims 1-3, 13, 18-21 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by French Patent No. 2,772,634; and a rejection of claims 1-3, 13, 18-21 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hotier et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,972,224) or Ferschneider et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,146,537).

The communication filed February 17, 2004 amends independent claim 1, and presents arguments (see page 9, first full paragraph) as to why Applicant believes this amendment distinguishes over the references of record. However, independent claim 18 has not been amended, nor has Applicant presented any arguments as to how and why this previously presented claim distinguishes over the references applied against it. Accordingly, this communication fails to "present arguments pointing out the specific distinctions believed to render the claims, including any newly presented claims, patentable over any applied references," as required by 37 CFR 1.111(b) for reconsideration or further examination.

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Applicant should note that a general allegation that the claims define a patentable invention without specifically pointing out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the references does not comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.111(b).

Additionally, it is noted that Applicant has used the term "cancel" in identifying claim 19. However, "cancel" is not one of the seven status identifiers permitted by revised 37 CFR 1.121. Applicant is advised that any future amendments must identify claim 19 as "canceled" not "cancel."

Since the above noted communication appears to be *bona fide*, Applicant is given **ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS** from the mailing date of this notice, whichever is longer, within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment of the application. EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to I. Cintins whose telephone number is (571) 272-1155. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Blaine Copenheaver, can be reached at (571) 272-1156.

The centralized facsimile number for the USPTO is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

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system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private

PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Ivars C. Cintins
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1724

I. Cintins
May 16, 2004